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10 September 1984

GAO

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for General Accounting Office (GAO) on
Nuclear Winter

1. On 10 September 1984, General Accounting Office (GAO) staffers Barry Holman and Paul Bollea were briefed on Soviet research efforts regarding the climatic effects of nuclear war. The briefers were [redacted]

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[redacted] of the Office of Scientific and Weapons Research and [redacted] of the Office of Central Reference. GAO is conducting a study on international response to the nuclear winter concept. GAO was told it could not have copies of the internal unfinished reports cited in the attached request and the briefing was offered as an alternative. [redacted]

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2. The briefers explained what research was underway in CIA and elsewhere and gave suggestions where GAO might look for further help. The bulk of the briefing was taken up with discussion of Soviet individuals involved in research and propaganda efforts in the government and Soviet Communist Party. It was pointed out that Moscow is focusing on Third World countries as a propaganda target in an effort to exert pressure on the US and gain support for the anti-nuclear lobby. Soviet computer modeling studies were also discussed. [redacted]

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3. The briefers mentioned [redacted] of the National Intelligence Council Analytic Group, as a further contact point on the topic. Following the above briefing, I contacted [redacted] He said he was working on a paper on nuclear winter but did not have anything additional to add to the substance of the briefing given to GAO. I will inform the GAO staffers of his response if they request a separate briefing by [redacted]

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